



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E. at Work



**Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence**

## Top Managers Sworn-In



Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz recently administered the oath at a Swearing-In ceremony for the Top Managers that were recently appointed. Pictured above are: (l-r) North District Administrator Wayne Choinski, Director Randy Braren (Parole and Community Services), Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz, Warden Jeffrey McGill (Northern CI), and Director David E. Brown (Correctional Enterprise -CEC).

### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

about and for  
correctional  
professionals

October 15, 2006 -  
November 4, 2006

## Mayor Perez Helps Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Recently Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez spoke to 100 inmates at the Osborn CI. The event was to kick-off Hispanic Heritage Month at Osborn, a medium-security prison with about 1,900 inmates. As of July, about 27 percent of the 18,568 inmates in Connecticut were Hispanic.

Nueva Criatura, a 12-man prison band comprised of inmates at Osborn Correctional Institution, played Puerto Rican religious ballads as part of the event.

Perez, a native of Puerto Rico who worked his way from the impoverished streets of Hartford to the Mayor's office, was invited to inspire the inmates to turn away from crime.

Perez told the inmates that programs are in place to assist them, but it's up to them to make the best use of them. "What we do with an opportunity will decide what we do next" he said.



## Warden Recuperates with New Heart



Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz and the entire Connecticut Department of Correction are extending their prayers and well wishes to Warden Robin H. Sutherland of the Brooklyn CI. On Monday, October 9, 2006, Warden Sutherland recently underwent a successful heart transplant at Hartford Hospital. She is currently recuperating at home and her family reports she is making progress every day. Because she has been out of work since July, a request is now being made of departmental managers to donate vacation or personal time to her continued recuperation. The form required to make that donation can be obtained from your personnel officer. Warden

Sutherland's family has expressed their appreciation for the many cards, telephone calls and support that the Warden has received over the course of the past several months.

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## Agency Receives Grant for Re-Entry Program

The Department has been awarded a grant of \$450,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance under the 2006 Prisoner Reentry Initiative.

The ***Connecticut Prisoner Reentry Initiative (CPRI)*** is a two-year project aimed at preparing non-violent offenders returning to the Hartford community with pre-release assessments, strategic program interventions and skill development. The project's goal is to enhance employability, self-sufficiency and promote successful re-entry. The grant is a companion to one Hartford-based Community Partners in Action, Inc., received last November from the U.S. Department of Labor to support the agency's PREP Program.

Joining the Department as project collaborators are Community Partners in Action Inc, seven community-based agencies, the City of Hartford Mayor's Office, Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Department of Labor, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Central Connecticut State University and Connecticut Workforce Development.

The Department has been systematically working to improve the transition from prison to community in a number of ways. According to Dr. Patrick Hynes, Director of Offender Programs and Victim Services, "This partnership grant will provide resources for the Department to do even more in this area. Funds will be used to enhance collaborative relationships that are already in place and to enhance re-entry efforts currently under way." In addition, the grant will enable the Department to begin utilizing the Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-R), an offender risk and need assessment tool presently used by other criminal justice agencies in the state.

For more grant information, contact Christine Fortunato, Grants and Contracts Manager, Research and Strategic Planning Unit at 860.692.6292 or [Christine.Fortunato@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Christine.Fortunato@po.state.ct.us)

Distributed bi-weekly to 7,000 staff and via the internet throughout Connecticut and the nation by the Department of Correction.

Theresa C. Lantz, Commissioner

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## Local Judges Visit Brooklyn CI



Acting Warden Anthony Coletti (left), Administrative Judge Antonio Robaina (center), and Judge Harry Calmar (right) were guests of the staff at Brooklyn CI on Friday, October 20th. The two judges, from Danielson Superior Court, toured the facility. Commissioner Lantz has always extended an open invitation to all local politicians and leaders in the criminal justice community to tour facilities in their area, to promote open communication and a mutual understanding of our environment.

## Around The Cell Block



**Colorado-** The state corrections department has fined six private prisons a total of \$131,000 for failing to fill mandatory staff positions.

**Norway-** A very intoxicated man in his 20's thought he was headed home when he broke through a fence and into a jail.

**South Dakota-** Inmates at two state prisons grew 27 tons of tomatoes, peppers, beets, carrots, cucumbers and other vegetables that were donated to the poor and elderly.

**Ohio-** The Marysville Women's Prison allows inmates to keep their newborn children with them in a dormitory so that they can bond with the children.

## Health Services Staff Receives Professional Certification

Director Pat Ottolini is proud to announce that Wanda White-Lewis CCHP of Wethersfield, CT, earned professional certification in the field of correctional health care on July 1st. To become a Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP), Ms. White-Lewis demonstrated mastery of national standards and the knowledge expected of leaders working in this field.



Ms. White-Lewis joins nearly 2,000 correctional health care professionals nationwide who have earned this distinction. Please congratulate Wanda on her tremendous accomplishment!!

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
October 15, 2006  
23,655  
On October 15, 2005  
the population was  
22,877**

## MWCI Staff Gather to Say Goodbye

Warden Sieminski reported that staff at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution gathered to say good bye to C/O Timothy Jacob, who passed away in a motorcycle accident, at a memorial service held at the facility on September 14<sup>th</sup>. A significant number of staff from all shifts and disciplines attended the memorial service, which was also attended by Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy and District Administrator Wayne Choinski. The memorial service was officiated by Father Bruno and the MWCI Chaplains of all denominations spoke and gave encouraging words to staff. Commissioner Theresa Lantz addressed the staff and asked them to share stories. "It was heartwarming to hear that Officer Jacob was like a "little brother" to many staff and that he was willing to help and go beyond his normal job duties," said Warden Sieminski.

Continued on Page 5 , *MWCI Staff*



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## Did You Know?...



*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This week's article was submitted by Irving Fallon, Plant Facilities Engineer I, and he can be reached at 860.692.7564.*

I spent a week this past summer touring colleges in upper New York State with my wife and son, and no visit to any building is complete (at least for me) without a gander at its bathrooms. A Rochester hotel enhanced its bathroom tub environment by the installation of a curved stainless steel curtain rod. Although the deflection at center point in the rod is only about four inches, the amount of additional room in the tub afforded by the rod is remarkable. The curtain drapes back into the tub wall, which prevents the water from escaping to the bathroom floor. The rod was designed to minimize the effect of "curtain wrap" when air venturi type low flow showerheads are used, but I cannot offer confirmation of this feature.

The big box home improvement centers have not yet picked up on this item, and local specialty plumbing supply houses either did not have them or priced the unit at approximately \$100. The Internet quickly located several vendors (use keywords curved shower rod or crescent shower rod), and I purchased one from Vintage Tub in Hazleton, Pennsylvania (1.877.868.1369). Their eBay seller identification is vintagetub. A five foot long tub version was under \$40 with air freight shipping. It was substantially made, well finished, and attractive.

A variety of fastening hardware was included with the rod, and it was strongly recommended by the vendor that the plastic tub surround not be used to secure the rod. I was uncomfortable about securing the rod directly to a sheetrock wall, and supported the rod hardware with a piece of Azek permanently colored PVC trim board. The hotel used a piece of DuPont Corain type kitchen counter material, which also worked well and may be a more attractive alternative if you need to match a color in the room. The rod material may be cut to length with a plumbing tube cutter if necessary.

## Robinson CI Diversity Council



(l-r) Secretary 2 Wendy Martyn, Major Jose Feliciano, Warden Bruce Cuscovitch, Officer Martha Davis, Major Chris McDonald, School Teacher Ofelia Baldwin, Captain Gemini Murray. The council's mission statement is as follows; "We are committed to promoting, fostering and embracing a multicultural environment through education, training and collaboration with staff and the community. We will achieve multicultural competence through pro-

fessionalism, respect, integrity, dignity and excellence."

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## MWCI Staff Cont'd

The following are words of reflection from staff:

*"Officer Jacobs was a hard-working officer and an asset to our third shift family. He could often be relied on to take on additional tasks, never complaining. It was a joy to have known him and worked so closely with him. I will always remember his energy and passion for life."* - **Lieutenant Rochelle Huddleston**

*"The department lost a great officer in Tim Jacob. He will be greatly missed at MacDougall-Walker. He was a dependable officer, always available and always fair, firm, and consistent when dealing with inmates. I enjoyed 7 plus years working with Tim. Tim had some extreme hobbies-off roading and rock climbing with his Jeep. What I am going to miss most, is hearing his stories about how he broke his axle or his tie-rod. He was always fixing something on one of his vehicles. Tim enjoyed life and died doing something he loved to do."* - **Officer Pete Anderson**

*"What I will remember most about Officer Jacobs is that he had these long legs like a "road-runner." He had the ability to get from one part of the building to the other part of the building in a flash. It was amusing to see how quickly he moved. He was a top-notch officer and he will be sorely missed."* - **Officer Brian Rembish**

*"Tim Jacob was younger than most when he started working for the Department of Correction. Tim was regarded by his fellow co-workers as a "no-nonsense top notch officer" who was always willing to help. Many of the officers looked at him as a "little" brother. For anyone who knew Tim Jacob understood that he was a private person who did not let people in easy. It is interesting when we lose friends that it is the simple things we remember the most. Such as, the way Tim would eat his lunch. He would take his food out of his huge lunch bag and line up all of the food by category and then eat it. He was teased about this numerous times, but he always took it in stride. Due to the loud engine and oversize tires, one could never miss Tim pulling into the parking lot in his trademark red Jeep Rubicon. Tim would talk about his love of "off roading" and riding motorcycles – this was his passion – a passion that worried his close friends and coworkers. I had the pleasure of working with Tim for seven years on the same slot. On our "Fridays" it became routine for Tim to say, "Happy Friday Silagi." In return, I would say, "Happy Friday Jake (Tim) – see you in three days." Now there is not a night that goes by that I do not stare at his empty parking space and I am reminded once again that he's gone. All of our prayers go out to Tim's family. We will miss you little brother."* - **Officer Todd Silagi**

# DOC Donates Bikes For MVP's DCF Bike Rodeo



Representatives from the Department of Children and Families pose with Vocational Instructor Dom Rossi of Cheshire CI as they load the refurbished bicycles for the DCF Bike Rodeo.

Vocational Instructor Dom Rossi and his crew at the wheelchair and bicycle repair shop located at Cheshire CI have done "it" again. "It" is refurbish bicycles for the Department of Children & Families Bike Rodeo. More than 100 bicycles were donated by local citizens for this cause. These bikes were then sent to Cheshire and made to look and ride "just like new."

When they were delivered to the DCF Offices in Hartford staff were smiling ear to ear. One supervisor stated, "The Department of Correction answered our call for assistance. This campaign was truly a success and will bring those in need true happiness."

A bike rodeo is a safety event designed to engage and entertain children while demonstrating bike safety inspections and showing certain key safety skills. The goal of the bike rodeo is to make better riders in rural and urban environments as well as to improve a riders' skills such as balance, coordination, education and control.

Bancroft, Connie, AA	HCC
Banevicius Andrius, Media Spc.	MCSTD
Barry, Steve, MH	CCI
Bell, Sylvia, Rec. Spec.	MWCI
Blum, Joseph, Lt.	MYI
Butterfield, Cindy	FAM CO
Cameron, Andy, Rec. Spvr	NCI
Castro, Evelyn, OA	HCC
Chapman, Tony, CO	NCI
Charron, Donad, CSAC	MYI
Daevis, Shermane, Rec.Spec	HCC
Duchaime, Michael, MH	CCI
Echevarria, Richard, CO	NCI
Emilia, Shannon, Lab. Tech	HCC
Esposito, Yvonne, LMH	CCI
Forti, Carlos, CO	MYI
Goss, Paul, CC	WCCI
Hannon, Thomas, CO	CCI
Hayes, Zachary, CO	MYI
Howes, Jeremy, CO,	NCI
Jainchill, Lisa, CSAC	MYI
Johnson, Tyra, Sec I	CO
Joy, Walter, CSAC	MYI
Kehoe, Charles, CO	CRCI
Laiseau, Raymond, CO	MYI
Lewis, Kathy, Rec. Spec.	HCC
Lopez-Howard, Leticia, CO	MYI
Lozada, David, CO	HCC
McKeever, John, MH	CCI
Mouzon, Michele, SST	CCI
Ouelette, Lise, HR	CO
Reeves, Maureen, MIS	CO
Rodriquez, Raymond, CO	HCC
Rodriquez, Robert, CO	MYI
Rosenburg, Paul, CO	HCC
Steele, Mary Jane, Rec Spec	OCPM
Tamplaru, Marc, CO	MYI
Valeriano, Armando, Capt.	CO
Waller, Michael, CO	MYI
White, Robert, CO	MYI
Williams, Claire, Sec. I	CO

## Major Moves

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz recently announced the promotion of Correctional Counselor Supervisor Monica Rinaldi of the Offender Classification and Population Mangement Unit to the rank of Major at the Robinson Correctional Institution. The following individuals have been re-assigned:

Major Neal Kearney of Enfield CI to Bergin CI

Major Jose Feliciano of Robinson CI to Bergin CI

Deputy Warden Chris Dion of Bergin CI to Enfield CI



Major Monica Rinaldi

## Media Visit at York CI



York CI Warden Lori Ricks recently conducted a tour of her facility for reporters of the New London Day newspaper in an effort to educate them about the operations of a modern correctional facility.

## Condolences



Warden John Sieminski and the staff at MacDougall-Walker CI are saddened by the passing of Yvonne E. Lewis, sister of Lt. Arthur W. Smith.



Warden Bruce Cuscovitch and the staff of Robinson CI and Warden Peter Murphy and the staff of Enfield CI are saddened to announce the passing of Geneva Willingham. Mrs. Willingham is the mother of Counselor Bobby Willingham (CRCI) and the grandmother of Officer Bobby J. Willingham (ECI).



Director Robert Frank and the staff of Nutrition and Food Services are saddened to announce the death of Arthelia Vaughn, mother of CFSS II Carlton Vaughn of Cafe' 24.

## Apology



To the family of Horacio Rodriguez, please accept our sincerest apology for the error of inadvertently listing his name as Horatio Gonzalez in the September 24 - October 14, 2006 issue of the PRIDE Newsletter in the Condolences section.

## Calendar



**November 18** - Bus Trip to New York City hosted by Bridgeport CC to benefit Special Olympics, CT. (3 seats available for the **How the Grinch Stole Christmas show @ \$85.00 pp**). The bus will leave Bridgeport CC at 12:00 noon and will depart New York City at 8:45 p.m. **There are 18 seats left @ \$35.00 pp.** if you want to spend a day in New York. For info contact: Pamela Neuendorf, Bridgeport CC 203-579-6131 or Debbie Horne at Special Olympics 203-380-9990.



**November 18** - Correction Officer Earl Lawrence's Retirement Celebration. Hosted at The Crystal Room in Naugatuck, from 7 pm-12am. Tickets are \$45 per person, which includes a DJ, gift, buffet dinner and one hour open bar. To obtain tickets, contact C/O D. Smith at 203.671.2898, C/O K. Eason at 203.808.2742 or RN Nancy Walton at 203.579.6222. Ticket Deadline is November 15, 2006.



**November 25** - Bus Trip to New Jersey's Largest Shopping Outlet. The bus will leave the Windsor Commuter lot off I-91 at 7am, New Haven CC at 8 am and Bridgeport CC at 9 am. The cost is \$40 per person. The bus will leave NJ at 7pm for CT. For tickets and more info contact Lt. Reveron at 203.579.6898 or 203.449.0898.



**November 25** - Old School Party sponsored by Quality of Life- Law Enforcement, held at the Community Outreach Center-Heritage Hall located at 645 Goffe Street in New Haven, from 9pm-1am. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Call 203.579.6131 for info.